

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A binding system, comprising:

a toe strap for securing the forward portion of a boot, the toe strap including a first end connected forward and on a lateral side of the binding system and a second end connected forward and on a medial side of the binding system, wherein the toe strap has at least one movable end connected to a flexible linkage to allow the end to travel;

an ankle strap for securing the instep portion of a boot, the ankle strap including a first end connected other than forward and on a lateral side of the binding system and a second end connected other than forward and on a medial side of the binding system, wherein the ankle strap has at least one movable end connected to a flexible linkage to allow the end to travel, wherein the flexible linkages connected to the movable ends of the toe and ankle straps are the same flexible linkage or different flexible linkages connected to one another; and

a strap tension-producing fastener located on a first strap being one of either the toe or the ankle strap, wherein the fastener tensions the first strap on which it is located and the flexible linkages cause the other strap to be tensioned when the first strap is tensioned and when tension on the first strap is released with the fastener, tension on the other strap is released.

2. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, comprising means for setting a predetermined amount of travel for the flexible linkage upon operation of the fastener.

3. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the flexible linkages connected to the toe and ankle straps are the same first flexible linkage, and a second end of the toe strap is connected to a second flexible linkage, wherein the second flexible linkage is connected to the ankle strap on the same end of the ankle strap as the first flexible linkage.

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4. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the flexible linkages connected to the toe and ankle straps are different first and second flexible linkages connected to one another, and a third flexible linkage is connected to a second side of the toe strap, wherein the first and third flexible linkages connected to the toe strap are connected to a yoke, and wherein the yoke is connected to the second flexible linkage and the second flexible linkage is connected to the ankle strap.

5. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein a roller is provided to guide at least one flexible linkage to the ankle strap.

6. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the flexible linkages connected to the toe and ankle straps are the same first flexible linkage, and a second flexible linkage is connected to a second end of the toe strap, and the fastener comprises a component on a second end of the ankle strap and a component that is connected to the second flexible linkage, and wherein the fastener component on the ankle strap and the fastener component connected to the second flexible linkage are connectable to one another.

7. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The binding system of Claim 6, wherein the fastener comprises a ratchet, pawl, and strap ladder, wherein the ratchet and pawl are on the ankle strap, and the strap ladder is connected to the second flexible linkage.

8. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the toe strap comprises at least two portions connected to one another, one end of the toe strap is held fast to the baseplate, and the length of the toe strap from end to end is adjustable by releasing the two strap portions and reconnecting the two portions at discrete positions.

9. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the flexible linkage connected to the toe strap is held fast to one side of the baseplate, the toe strap comprises at least two portions in a moving relationship, and the toe strap portions can move past one another upon travel of the flexible linkage connected to the toe strap.

10. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the flexible linkages connected to the toe and ankle straps are the same first flexible linkage, the first and second ends of said first flexible linkage are held fast at first and second locations on the binding, the first flexible linkage is connected to the ankle strap at a guide, wherein the ratio of the amount of travel of the toe strap in relation to the amount of travel of the ankle strap is other than 1.

11. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 10, wherein the ratio of the amount of travel of the toe strap to the amount of travel of the ankle strap is greater than one.

12. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 10, wherein the ratio of the amount of travel of the toe strap to the amount of travel of the ankle strap is less than one.

13. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 10, wherein the amount of travel of the toe strap is double the amount of travel of the ankle strap.

14. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the toe strap is bifurcated into two segments, each segment is connected to a different first and second flexible linkage, the first and second flexible linkages are connected to a third flexible linkage, and the third flexible linkage is the flexible linkage connected to the ankle strap.

15. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the flexible linkage connected to the toe strap has a biasing mechanism configured to resist the travel of the flexible linkage.

16. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 15, wherein the biasing mechanism is a spring interposed between a stop block held fast to the flexible linkage and a stop feature on the baseplate.

17. (Currently amended) A boot binding system, comprising:
a toe strap configured to pass over a toe portion of the boot, the toe strap including a first end connected forward and on a lateral side of the binding system and a second end connected forward and on a medial side of the binding system, said toe strap having at least one end that is movable so that the end is allowed to travel;

an ankle strap configured to pass over the instep portion of the boot, the ankle strap including a first end connected other than forward and on a lateral side of the binding system and a second end connected other than forward and on a medial side of the binding system, said ankle strap having at least one end that is movable so that the end is allowed to travel;

a strap tension-producing fastener located on a first strap being one of either the toe or the ankle strap; and

a movable flexible linkage that connects the movable toe strap end to the movable ankle strap end such that the fastener tensions the first strap on which it is located and the movable flexible linkage causes the other strap to be tensioned when the first strap is tensioned and when tension on the first strap is released with the fastener, tension on the other strap is released.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A binding system for a boot, comprising:

a first strap connected to a flexible linkage, the first strap including a first end connected forward and on a lateral side of the binding system and a second end connected forward and on a medial side of the binding system;

a second strap connected to the flexible linkage, the second strap including a first end connected other than forward and on a lateral side of the binding system and a second end connected other than forward and on a medial side of the binding system; and

a strap tension-producing fastener located on one of either the first or the second strap, wherein operation of said fastener tensions the strap on which it is located and the flexible linkage causes the other strap to be tensioned when the first strap is tensioned and when tension on the first strap is released with the fastener, tension on the other strap is released.

20. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein operation of said fastener causes travel of said flexible linkage connected to a first strap up to a predetermined position, and continued operation of said fastener further tensions the other strap, without further travel of the first strap beyond the predetermined position.

21. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein operation of said fastener causes said ankle strap to travel and causes said flexible linkage connected to said toe strap to travel a proportionate ratio of the amount of travel of the ankle strap.

22. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The binding system of Claim 21, wherein the amount of travel of the flexible linkage connected to the toe strap is double the amount of travel of the ankle strap.

23. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein travel of the ankle strap end connected to the flexible linkage causes the flexible linkage connected to the toe strap to travel.

24. (Previously presented) A snowboard boot binding system, comprising:
a baseplate;
a toe strap for securing the toe portion of a boot to the baseplate, wherein the toe strap has a first end and a second end;
an ankle strap for securing the instep portion of a boot to the baseplate, wherein the ankle strap has a first end and a second end;
a first linkage attached to the first end of the toe strap, the linkage being guided along the baseplate to the first end of the ankle strap;
a second linkage attached to the second end of the toe strap, the linkage being guided along the baseplate to the first end of the ankle strap; and
an ankle strap fastener for fastening the second end of the ankle strap to the baseplate in an adjustable manner, wherein operation of the ankle strap fastener to tension the ankle strap also tensions the first and the second linkage, which tension both ends of the toe strap.

25. (Previously presented) The snowboard boot binding system of Claim 24, wherein the first linkage has a spring between a stop feature on the base plate and the end of the toe strap.

26. (Previously presented) The snowboard boot binding system of Claim 24, wherein the second linkage has a spring between a stop feature on the base plate and the end of the toe strap.

27. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the flexible linkages comprise one or more cables.

28. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 19, wherein the flexible linkage comprises one or more cables.

29. (Previously presented) The binding system of Claim 24, wherein the linkages comprise one or more cables.

30. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 17, wherein the movable flexible linkage comprises one or more cables.

31. (Withdrawn) The binding system of Claim 1, wherein the end of the toe strap that is movable is configured to travel twice the distance compared to the end of the ankle strap that is movable.

32. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, comprising a strap ladder connected to the movable end of the ankle strap, wherein the strap ladder connects the movable end of the ankle strap to a flexible linkage.

33. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, comprising a baseplate to support the binding system, wherein the movable end of the toe strap is connected to the baseplate via a flexible linkage.

34. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, comprising a baseplate to support the binding system, wherein the movable end of the ankle strap is connected to the baseplate via a strap ladder that is connected to a flexible linkage.

35. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, comprising a strap tension-producing fastener that includes a ratchet and pawl located on the ankle strap and a strap ladder that connects the movable end of the ankle strap to a flexible linkage.

36. (Previously presented) The binding system of Claim 1, comprising a baseplate to support the binding system, wherein the binding system is connected to the baseplate at least at four locations.

37. (Currently amended) The binding system of Claim 1, comprising a baseplate to which the ends of the toe strap and the ankle strap are connected directly or via a flexible linkage.

38. (Previously presented) A binding system, comprising:
a baseplate to support the binding system;
a toe strap for securing the forward portion of a boot, the toe strap including a first end and a second end, wherein the toe strap has at least one movable end connected to a linkage to allow the end to travel;

an ankle strap for securing the instep portion of a boot, the ankle strap including a first end and a second end, wherein the ankle strap has at least one movable end connected to a linkage to allow the end to travel, wherein the linkages connected to the movable ends of the toe and ankle straps are the same linkage or different linkages connected to one another;

a strap tension-producing fastener located on a first strap being one of either the toe or the ankle strap, wherein the fastener tensions the first strap on which it is located and the linkages cause the other strap to be tensioned when the first strap is tensioned, and when tension on the first strap is released with the fastener, tension on the other strap is released; and

wherein the binding system is connected to the baseplate at least at four locations via the ends of the toe strap and ankle strap.

39. (Previously presented) The binding system of Claim 38, wherein one end of each of the toe and ankle straps is connected at the lateral side of the baseplate and one end of each of the toe and ankle straps is connected at the medial side of the baseplate.

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